THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration to India on 26-27 February 2002, many areas were identified for bilateral cooperation, including proposals for assistance in the field of Agriculture. Through subsequent technical discussions, including during the visit of Afghan Minister of Agriculture Mr. Seyyed Hussein Anwari in April this year, steps have been taken to provide assistance, *inter alia,* through supply of seeds, equipment and training of personnel.

Indo-US talks regarding reconstruction work in Afghanistan

5322. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the U.S. have held talks to coordinate reconstruction work in Afghanistan and enhance stability in that country;

(b) whether both the countries have agreed to train Afghanistan Military and police;

(c) the number of Indian personnel to be sent to impart training in Afghanistan; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) As part of our efforts to assist Afghanistan, India has actively participated in various international efforts aimed at reconstruction and rebuilding Afghanistan, India has also been in bilateral dialogue with several countries, including the US, that have interests in Afghanistan, to discuss aspects relating to institution building of the Afghan Interim Administration in various fields, including in the field of Defence.

America's reported statement to use nuclear weapons

5323. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Indian Express dated March 13, 2002, captioned "N-report casts PALL on US-Russia ties"; and